(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the U.S. Government has proposed joint operation against Al-Quaieda in Jammu and Kashmir;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): -(a) and (b) Government have been receiving reports indicating that following the defeat of Taliban and other foreign terrorist who were in Afghanistan prior to November, 2001, a substantial number of erstwhile Taliban and allied fundamentalist groups have crossed over to Pakistan and PoK. These terrorists are likely to join terrorists outfits like Jaishe-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Al-Badr, Hizbul Mujahideen etc. for their eventual infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir and to escalate terrorist violence in the State of J&K and elsewhere.

(c) the possibility of Al-Quaieda terrorist having infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir cannot, therefore, be ruled out.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) above.

Constitution of a tribunal for redressal of grievances of armed forces personnel

*159. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an Administrative Tribunal for speedy redressal of grievances of armed forces personnel as appeared in the Times of India' of 13th June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the existing forum available for redressal of their grievances and what type of Sortcomings have been detected in this system;

(d) what would be the constitution of the proposed Tribunal and whether a time-frame would be laid down for disposal of the cases filed before this Tribunal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) The proposal to set up an Armed Forces Tribunal for speedy disposal of cases relating to the members of Armed Forces is under active consideration of the Government. The modalities of the Tribunal are being worked out in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice and the Department of Personnel and Training.

2. Provisions exist under the relevant sections of the Army Act, 1950, Navy Act, 1957 and Air Force act, 1950 for redressal of grievances of the Armed Forces personnel. Armed Forces personnel can submit representations, petitions or complaints through prescribed channels. Where the redress prayed for is not given, the intermediate authority forwards the complaint to the authority to whom the complaint is addressed, for final disposal. The existing provisions in the respective Acts of the three Services for redressal of grievances have been tested over a long period of time.

World Bank Study on Jharia Coalfield Fire

*160 SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank made an exhaustive study of Jharia coalfield fire in 1996 at an estimated cost of Rs. 700 crores and submitted its Report to the Coal Ministry but the Government have not taken any action on the Report so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what are the findings of the Report; and

(d) by when Government is likely to act on this Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) A World Bank aided project namely 'Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project' was completed in 1996-97 involving diagnostic study for fire fighting programme as well as environmental management plan for Jharia coalfield. The total cost involved for the above World Bank study was about Rs. 37 crores.

The total cost of fire control/subsidence control end rehabilitation as per the World Bank study was estimated to be Rs. 4071 crores and a time frame of 15—20 years for implementation was indicated.